



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

AMARYLLIDACEÆ.

HYPOXYS, L.—*H. erecta*, L.; common; N. Y.

HÆMODORACEÆ.

ALETRIS, L.—*A. farinosa*, L.; New York and New Jersey, *Torr. Cat.*; Closter, common, *Austin*; Keyport, *Brown*; Jamaica; Staten Island; Chatham, N. J., etc.

IRIDACEÆ.

IRIS, L.—*I. versicolor*, L.; common; N. Y.—*I. Virginica*, L.; Closter, common, *Austin*; Hackensack meadows; Long Island, *State Flora*, *Miller*, *Coles*, *Ruger*.

PARDANTHUS, Ker.—*P. Chinensis*, Ker.; Preakness, *Fischer*; between Jamaica and Middleville, S. S. R. R., L. I., *Ruger*.

SISYRINCHIUM, L.—*S. Bermudiana*, L.; common; N. Y.; with white flowers, S. S. R. R., near Jamaica, *Ruger*.

DIOSCOREACEÆ.

DIOSCOREA, Plumier.—*D. villosa*, L.; common; N. Y.

8. Trees and Rain.—[In Vol. III, No. 8, was a short but very interesting account of the desiccation of the Island of Santa Cruz, W. I. Mr. Merriam, the writer, has kindly sent us the following communication from the friend who was his authority for the facts. The story of the Lake of Valentia is not new but very apposite, and on account of the importance of the subject, may claim repetition even in our limited space.]

Your brief published statement concerning the diminution in the rainfall of the Island of Santa Cruz is in the main correct, save that it gives the idea of a more rapid change than has probably taken place. At my former visit, twenty-seven years ago, the desiccation had undoubtedly made some progress, but it had not been sufficient to make itself manifest in a very marked degree.

The change from fertility to barrenness, which at first must have been almost imperceptible, is no doubt taking place in an accelerating ratio. Every new plantation swallowed up by the onward march of desolation, augments the cause, and renders the arrest of the evil more and more hopeless. This movement is from the East, (the windward end of the island,) towards the West, and is now quite conspicuous. Every few years an estate, formerly green with cane fields, becoming incapable of producing further crops, has to be abandoned to the graziers, whose cattle find a meagre pasture upon it a few seasons longer. These are in turn driven off, and the land is entirely given up. Henceforward it becomes, if not quite a desert, at least a barren waste, producing only a sparse and prickly vegetation, over which a few arborescent cacti reign supreme. A narrow belt of green lines the sea shore of this region, consisting of cocoa-nut palms, the poisonous Manchineel, the sea side grape, and a few shrubs, whose natural habitat is along the high water mark; but, inland, cultivation is impossible without constant irrigation. As there are no streams upon the island, with the exception of a few rills chiefly near the western end, and the wells are failing, no means remain to force life from the unwilling soil. Some attempts were at one time made to arrest this insidious advance, but too late